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Further Considerations on the True Nature of GOVERNMENT.



THE Reader must observe, that I am very careful in proving whatever I advance. It is become fashionable of late, to call all Things Declamations which do not breathe a certain Spirit; and to avoid the Imputation of endeavouring to move the Passions, I have all along set down what I think is Truth, and why I think it Truth. Hitherto I have been removing Impediments, and clearing the Way of those Incumbrances which Men of Art have laid on to make honest People stumble. I have endeavoured to shew, that there is a certain Mystery in Patriotism; that this is of late grown an equivocal Term; that those who make most Use of it, use it in a wrong Sense; and that the Mystery of their Patriotism, is, in fact, a Mystery of Iniquity. I have also made it my Business to point out the Nature and Management of this Mystery, and the Methods by which the Managers make it more and more a Mystery. I have shewn too how the Scene may be clear'd up, and the People deliver'd from all the fantastick Terrors with which those who call themselves Patriots have so long affrighted them. I have set a Spirit of Reformation in its true Light, and exposed as well as I was able, that Spirit of Faction, which hath so many Votaries amongst us. I come now to the most important Part of my Work, that is, the stating the real Evances of our Country, and their probable Remedy.

In the first Place, Truth requires of me to own, that my Countrymen, and especially my Cotemporaries, have suffered Prosperity to corrupt them. Our Situation, the Arts transmitted to us by our Ancestors, and the happy Frame of our Constitution, make us quite another sort of People than our Neighbours. We live in greater Abundance, we act with greater Freedom, our Diversions are in quite another Taste; and all these are demonstrative Proofs of the Truth of what I say. I do not however affirm, that it is absolutely impossible a rich and flourishing People should not be luxurious and seditious; because we every Day see, that Men of vast Fortunes are as modestly, and are as virtuous, as those who have but mean ones. Whence it may be inferred, that a whole Nation might be remarkable for Wealth and Probity at one and the same Time. I shall hereafter shew, that this may be our Case. At present I labour only to establish the Fact, that our Corruption is produced by our prosperity; of which I shall offer two Proofs, which I take to be conclusive. The first of these is the Complaint of the Malecontents, which all turn on this Topic. It is true, that they frequently tell us of universal Poverty, and a gradual Decay of Trade; but as they ascribe both these to Luxury, it is easy to see that their account of our Condition is inconsistent. Luxury will be fatal to Individuals, and Numbers will be impoverished by it; but the Sinews of Luxury, and of War, are Wealth and Trade: And therefore the true State of the Nation is this, That the Children of those ruin'd by Luxury this Age, must toil for the Children of the Industrious the next. My second Proof is the Evidence of Foreigners. Let any Man read the Accounts given of us by French and Dutch Writers, and they will see, that they speak just as I do. Now, tho' I shall readily admit, that they are very incompetent Judges of our Laws, our Customs, and even of our Learning; yet I cannot but think they are the best Judges in the World of our Circumstances. We may believe ourselves to be richer and happier than the Inhabitants of France or of Holland, but the French and Dutch only can know that we really are. Ours is but Opinion at best, but their Sentiments are certain; for no Man gives up the Cause of his Country but from the clearest Conviction. In order to take off from the Harshness of this Charge it is necessary to shew, that Prosperity is naturally dangerous to the Virtues of a People; and that tho' the End of a well-constituted Government is to secure Prosperity to its Subjects, yet this does not include any Power of preventing their being corrupted by Prosperity. We see the Israelites, while they were ruled by Judges, were alternately happy and oppressed. Whoever considers their History attentively, will see the Fate of all Societies. Virtue, Industry, and a good Constitution, will make a State flourish; and when these are wanted, the people must become miserable, and a Prey to their

Neighbours. Now the Reason of these quick Successions of Want and Wealth in this Nation, was the Excellence of their Government at that Time, which brought Things sooner to Maturity than any other Form invented by the Wit of Man. The Truth of this will appear by considering, that when the People would needs have a Monarchy, the Case alter'd, and their Prosperity, even when Providence favour'd them, was of a slower Growth. At length it came to its full Height under Solomon: But what was the Consequence? Why both Princes and People were unable to bear their good Fortune, and so all Things sunk into Confusion again. I do not use the Authority of the Sacred Writings here as they are inspir'd, but as they contain an excellent Body of History; and as they contain a larger and more certain Account of this People, than can be met with anywhere else of another People; and therefore the best Political Writers have constantly drawn Examples from these Books. This Apology must needs seem strange to some; but I cannot help that, since I am sure it will be thought necessary by others; and as far as I am able, I am willing to comply with all.

The Greek History will afford us Matter of Observation in the same Way. Athens produced her greatest Men when she was in her greatest Distress; their Virtues raised their Country to Power and Splendor, and they frequently fell Victims to those Vices which Power and Splendor introduced. Athens came to be the principal State of Greece, by contributing so much to the Destruction of the Persian Empire; but the Pride of her Advancement proved the Cause of her being debas'd. The Virtues of her Citizens got the better of Adversity; but that Prosperity, which her Virtues procured, triumphed over their Country in the End. It was the same thing at Sparta: While the Subjects of that State had many Difficulties to struggle with, they were deservedly renown'd, and the Greeks had all the Reason in the World to place them at their Head, when they attempted to shake off the Tyranny of the Athenians. But when by the Peloponnesian War Sparta had humbled her Rival, her Prosperity introduced the Causes of her own Ruin, the very Man who triumphed over Athens laid a Scheme for subverting the Constitution of Sparta. Afterwards, when the whole Power of Greece came to be united by the Arts of Philip of Macedon, it produced one great Blaze of Glory, and after that followed perpetual Decay. This shews, that too great Prosperity may be destructive to a People, and that we ought to commend the Prudence of such Politicians, as desire rather to preserve their Countrymen free and happy, than to raise them to a Pitch of envious Greatness, which seldom outlasts one Generation, tho' it serves to make many miserable. I am sensible, that there is nothing easier than to sneer upon this Observation, under colour of applauding such a prudent Politician; but I am sensible also of another thing, that it is not easy to answer it from Reason and History: And as for other Answers, they may do well enough in Disputes of no Consequence, but where the Fate of a Nation is at stake they will never be employ'd by any but those Patriots, who can laugh over an expiring State, and write a Farce on the Downfall of their Country.

I would willingly have pass'd by the Roman History; but there are some things in it so very much to my Purpose, and which others have so strangely misapply'd, that I cannot help touching on it.

We have heard much of good Dictators taken from the Plough. Does not this prove, that Roman Virtues preceded the Prosperity of Rome? Those Dictators did not plough for Diversion; and I am certain they have often been applauded by Men who would not even for their Characters change Conditions, or gratify their Vanity at the Expence of an Estate in Middlesex. After the last Punic War, when Rome saw herself without a Rival, she produced great Men indeed; but, alas! to her Prejudice! she had no more Enemies to combat, and so the Capacities of her Heroes turn'd upon each other. I say this after Sallust; and I cannot produce either a better Authority or a better Example, since it is generally agreed, there hardly ever was a worse Man or a better Writer. We all know the Augustan Age is a Phrase equivalent to the highest Prosperity. But what were the Ages that follow'd it? and what were the Politicks of Augustus? Is it not well known, that he suspected his own Prosperity, and that of the Empire, and was for restraining both, by resigning his own Power, and giving the Empire Limits? Might not this Matter be illustrated by much later Examples? Were not the Venetians, were not the Genoese ruined by Prosperity? And how far I pray was France from it even in our own Remembrance? Did not Lewis XIV. live to see his Title of Great justly ridicul'd, when some of the scandalous Trophies of Ada-

lation, raised on account of his Conquests, became Ornaments at Blenheim house, and perpetual Monuments of his Defeats? It is in respect to Countries, the same thing as with regard to the Fortunes of private Men. There is more Wisdom shewn in declining the Summit, than Courage in mounting it. *Est Modus in Rebus.*

The Issue of all this is, that Prosperity hath had a Power of corrupting most Nations; and therefore, we ought not to be amazed, or out of our Wits, at perceiving Symptoms of the like Nature here. It is no Imputation on the English Nation, that they are Men, and, as Men, prone to human Frailties. Some People indeed, who are so distractedly fond of Panegyric, that they think it the highest Patriotism to be always praising their Country, crowd their Writings eternally with the Wisdom, Courage, and Spirit of the British People. For my part, I can scarce think there is any Sincerity in this. On the contrary, I am inclin'd to believe, that if they were thoroughly persuaded of their Countrymen's Merits, they would hardly flatter them so grossly. But be that as it will, as it is the truest Mark of private Friendship not to sacrifice Truth to Complaisance, and as it is the Duty of a Physician to prefer a Patient's good Health to his good Opinion; so a political Writer, who has an honest Heart, will rather consider how to make his Works profitable to his Readers, than how to make them pleasant. At least this hath been my Care. But to make the Subject still clearer, I must proceed to the Means by which Prosperity hath corrupted us; and having done this, every Reader of tolerable Understanding will see the proper Method of Cure.

[To be continued]

HOME PORTS.

Portsmouth, Feb. 3. Since my last came in the Providence, Thomas Naskil, and the Emanuel, George Naskil, both from Norway; and the Portsmouth Storeship from Southampton. Sail'd the Deal-castle, Capt. Elton, to Spit-head; where are the Duke and the Cambridge. At St. Hellens remains his Majesty's Ship the Kingdon, Capt. Norris.

Dover, Feb. 3. Arrived the Hannah, Evers, and the Catherine and Elizabeth, Chapman, both from Maryland.

* Last Night we had a Ship arriv'd here and took a Pilot for London, but the Captain would not tell his or Ship's Name, nor from whence she came, so can't give any Account of her, tho' believe she came from New York.

Deal, Feb. 3. Wind S. W. blows hard. Came down and remains the Charming Nancy, Willis, for Maryland. Remains his Majesty's Ships the Advice, Blandford, Scipio, Drake Sloop, the East India Ships, and the rest of the Outward-bound. Arrived the Elizabeth, Duparque, from Maryland.

Gravesend, Feb. 3. Pass'd by the Milner, Dixon, and the Patuxen Merchant, Jolly, from Maryland; the Elizabeth, Fuller, and the Ann, Gausson, from New England.

Arrived

At Carolina, the King George, Bradford, from London.

At Guiney, the John and Betty, Ballard, from Barbados.

At Venice, the Warren Galley, Huddy, from London, sail'd from Gibraltar in 11 Days.

LONDON, February 5.

Letters of the 21st ult. O. S. from Ratibon say, that the Austrian Major General Bernclau has sent a Prohibition to the Inhabitants of that Part of the Electorate of Bavaria which is on this Side of the Inn, extending from Schardingden to the Frontiers of Saltzburg and Tirol, to carry any Sorts of Provisions or Commodities to Munich, but to bring them to the Hungarian Army on pain of being treated with Fire and Sword by the Hussars, Paudours and Waradins, who are to have free Liberty to treat them at their Discretion.

Those of the 24th from Francfort say the Austrians have not only taken Passau but Straubingen, Landshut and Braunau; and 'tis even reported that they have penetrated as far as Munich, and that 3000 of the Tirolese Militia have made an Incursion into the Electorate of Bavaria, where they raise heavy Contributions. The Magistrates of Francfort have made the usual Present of Wine and Oats to the King of the Romans.

The Coronation of the Emperor at Francfort was fix'd on the 18th ult. and that of the Empress on the 1st Instant, and in the mean time they din'd in publick.

'Tis expected, that if the Queen of Hungary does not call home her Forces, the new Emperor as soon as he is



Crown'd will demand the Quotas of Troops which the Princes of the Empire are oblig'd to furnish him by the Matricula.

The last Advices from Bohemia say, that the Prussians are in full March from Silesia and Moravia towards Lower Austria, where they are to be join'd by 15 or 20,000 Saxons.

Letters of the 12th ult. from Milan say their Apprehensions from the King of Sardinia's late Manifesto are dispell'd by the March of his Troops towards Suza.

The Spanish Troops are all enter'd into the Ecclesiastical State without touching on the Territories of the Great Duchy of Tuscany.

'Tis said that the second Convoy of Transports from Spain for Italy, consisting of 16,000 Men, has been dispersed by a Storm, and Part of them drove to the Isles of Hieres.

Extract of a Letter from Brussels.

The Minas of Men are strangely divided as to the Situation of the Queen our Sovereign. Some think her Affairs more desperate, others believe they wear a better Face than ever. Such as are of the former Opinion observe, that the Election being now over, and the Elector of Bavaria Emperor, Things must take a new Channel; that the Resolution the King of Prussia has taken to support his Allies, will compel our Queen to rest satisfied with the Share allotted her by the French Plan of Accommodation; and that as to the little Successes of her Arms in Upper Austria and Bavaria, they will be so far from diverting of her Fate that they will hasten it, by convincing the Allies of the Necessity they are under to remain united. In the Judgment therefore of these Politicians, a general Peace in Germany at least is not far off.

Those who think in a different manner would have us believe the Election of an Emperor a Matter of less Importance than it is generally imagin'd. It was made say they, under the Eye of Foreign Troops; and that Unanimity which is urg'd in its Favour, may as well be understood as a Proof that none durst dissent. Besides, the Elector of Bavaria, tho' he is become Emperor, can have no better Title thereby to the Kingdom of Bohemia, than he had before; and an Emperor's establishing his own Titles, contested before his Election, is a new Case, and cannot be very agreeable to any of the Princes of the Empire. That the King of Prussia is an enterprising Monarch, all the World must allow, but that the Nature and End of his Enterprizes are so well known, as that they may be reason'd upon as Facts, is not so clear. Add to this, that besieging Vienna in the Winter, and without having an Army to cover the Siege, is a bold Undertaking, and perhaps may not prove successful; especially if we consider that her Hungarian Majesty is not altogether destitute of Forces, and that the States of Hungary are resolv'd to exert themselves to the utmost. There is Reason to believe that the Advantages gain'd by Count Khevenhuller are really greater than the World is apprized of, at least it seems so from the Care taken to intercept all Packets from Vienna, and the Endeavours that have been used to prevent the News of the taking Passau from being believ'd.

Some who frequent the Palace here, and have an Opportunity of hearing what is said by such as have the Confidence of the Count de Harrach assure us, that an Alliance between the Czarina, the King of Great Britain, and our Sovereign, will be quickly concluded at Petersburg; where the British Minister Mr. Finch, and the Marquis de Botta are in great Credit. It is also asserted, that the King of Sardinia and the Duke of Modena are ready to the Queen's Interest, and that very speedily another Power will declare itself more openly than hitherto it has done in favour of the House of Austria. Such are our Hopes, which may be disappointed; but such is our Loyalty, that it never can be shaken.

The Humber, Capt. Feron, (late Capt. Raikes) returning in Ballast for London from Jamaica, to which Island he went in the Transport Service, was lost the 30th of January at Night, near Padstow, but the People were sav'd.

The Foreman, Bird, from Jamaica for London, has been forc'd on shore near Bologne on the Coast of France. The Cargo will be most of it sav'd.

The following Gentlemen were Yesterday chosen Directors of the South-sea Company, viz. Joseph Adams, Jonathan Colyer, John Edwards, Joseph Fawthrop, Joseph Gulton, jun. John Hamilton, Richard Howard, Abraham Hume, Richard Jackson, George Jennings, James Lock, Henry Lloyd, Robert Lovick, Roger Mainwaring, John Manley, Sydenham Malthus, John Phillipson, Samuel Smith, Bennett Swayne, Walter Vane, Lewis Way, Robert Wylde, Esqrs. Adrian Collier Ducarel, Thomas Dingley, Thomas Lane, Henry Maitland, Joseph Russell, Richard Swayne, Thomas Strode, and Francis Wilks, Esqrs.

The Eight last, in the room of Joshua Baker, Thomas Cowell, Edward Haistwell, Nathaniel Paice, Thomas

Thomts, Thomas Turner, Esqrs; and Capt. Richard Pinell and William Townson, Esq; deceased.

On the 17th of January, Dr. Wm. Douglas of Southampton-street Covent-garden, Man-midwife, kiss'd their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales's Hands, on his being appointed Physician to their Household.

Yesterday their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and his Highness the Prince of Saxe-Gotha, were overturn'd in their Coach in St. Martin's-lane, but happily receiv'd no other Damage than the Fright such an Accident must occasion.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London-Bridge.	11 38	60 02

Bank Stock, 135 3-4ths. India, Nothing done. South Sea, 104 to 1-4th. Old Annuity, 111 1-half to 5-8ths. New ditto, 110 to 1-8th. Three per Cent. 98 1-half to 3-4ths. Seven per Cent. Loan, Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, 61. Royal Assurance, 87. London Assurance, 11 1-4th. African, 10. India Bonds, 31. 13 s. to 16 s. to 14 s. Premium. Bank Circulation, 31. 2 s. 6 d. Premium. Salt Tallies, Par. English Copper, 31. 15 s. Welsh ditto, 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, Nothing done. Three per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Million Bank, 123 1-half. Equilant, 110.

Bank, January 15, 1741.

Whereas Information has been given at the Bank, That JOHN WAITE, their late Cashier, was seen lately at a certain inn some Distance from London; and is being supposed that he is about to make his Escape out of the Land, This therefore is to give Notice to all Captains, Masters of Ships or Small Vessels, Fishermen, Innkeepers, &c. That whoever shall apprehend and secure the said JOHN WAITE, to be dealt with according to Law, shall receive of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England Three hundred Pounds, over and above the Two hundred Pounds offered in former Advertisements, in the Whole FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

David Le Gros, Secretary.

N. B. The said JOHN WAITE is about Forty-one Years of Age, and about Five Foot Eight inches high, well set, round visag'd, small grey Eyes, very light Eye-brows and Eye-lashes, and of a most remarkable fresh Complexion, but travels somewhat disguised.

Lottery-Office, January 13, 1741-2.

THE Managers and Directors appointed by Act of Parliament to take in the Tickets of the Bridge-Lottery, Anno 1739 and to deliver out Certificates in lieu thereof, payable by the Cashiers of the Bank, finding, that notwithstanding the several Notices by them given for bringing in Tickets to be enter'd, great Numbers are yet outstanding, do give this further Notice, That the 15th Day of March next, is the last Day appointed by Act of Parliament for taking in Tickets and delivering out Certificates; and for this Purpose daily Attendance will be continued to be given at their Office near the Receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer.

Lottery-Office, January 13, 1741-2.

THE Managers and Directors appointed by Act of Parliament to take in the Tickets of the Bridge-Lottery, Anno 1740. and to deliver out Certificates in lieu thereof, payable by the Cashiers of the Bank, finding, that notwithstanding the several Notices by them given for bringing in Tickets to be enter'd, great Numbers are yet outstanding, do give this further Notice, That the 15th Day of March next is the last Day appointed by Act of Parliament for taking in Tickets and delivering out Certificates; and for this Purpose daily Attendance will be continued to be given at their Office near the Receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer.

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